

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant submits that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicant believes that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claims 2, 4-6, 22 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1, 7-11, 21 and 23 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 2-6, 12-20, 22, 24 and 25 are now presented for examination.

In the Final Office Action, claim 11 has been objected to because of an informality. Applicant submits that this objection has been obviated due to the cancellation of claim 11.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 12-20 have been allowed and that claims 4, 6, 22, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. Patent No. 4,765,753). In addition, claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by D'Amico et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,100). Further, claim 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Goldman (U.S. Patent No. 4,129,749) in view of Schmidt.

Applicant submits that the above rejections have been obviated due to the cancellation of claim 11. Moreover, applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over the above-mentioned references since claims 4, 6, 22, 24 and 25 since they have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as indicated by the Office Action.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 7, 2003

Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980